

JAY HAWK FLYER

NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE 184th INTELLIGENCE WING



Civil Engineers use skills to make a difference

*A humanitarian mission in the Southwest
gives the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron
some very rewarding hands-on training. page 4*

JAYHAWK FLYER

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Cover photo

Airmen from the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron arrived at Window Rock, Ariz., for two weeks of annual training. The training was part of a humanitarian mission which was designed to help improve the living conditions of local Native Americans.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht,
184th Public Affairs



Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

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I will support and defend...

...the Constitution of the United States...

...against all enemies, foreign and domestic...

UTA information

July/August UTA: Aug. 2-5

September UTA: Sep. 7-8

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Deadline for the October edition of the Jayhawk Flyer is Sep. 15.

Look for the monthly Drill Down at www.184iw.ang.af.mil.

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Have a story idea?

Unit members are encouraged to contact the public affairs office for any upcoming events worthy of news coverage. You may submit your ideas by email to: 184iw.PA.1@ang.af.mil

You may also call 759-7561 or 759-7038.

Bird's Eye View

Commander's Comments

When I assumed command, I established three wing focus areas: Leadership Development, Domestic Operations and Drill Status Guardsmen. I will address each one of these separately over the next few months, starting with our Drill Status Guardsmen.

Why the focus on our traditional Airmen? Simply put, we would not exist without them. Our drill status guardsmen represent the true spirit of who we are – Citizen Airmen. One unique aspect of the Guard, and the one I'm most proud of, is the wide-range of skills from their "civilian" lives our traditional Soldiers and Airmen bring to the fight.

For example, when the civil engineers deploy, ground commanders can't wait for them to get down range and never want them to leave because many of them are master electricians, plumbers and contractors -- skills cultivated outside the military, but when activated are a tremendous force multiplier for our active-duty partners. The 177th IAS has close to a dozen drill status guardsmen working in cyber-related careers in the civilian sector. They leverage that experience in the rapidly changing and increasingly important cyber battle space.

We have more examples like this in every squadron in our wing. I know each of you reading this can probably call to mind a DSG you know that has a private sector job which benefits the wing's federal mission. Capturing the importance of that experience and applying it to another focus area: domestic operations would require an article of its own.

The DSGs in the wing represent 60 percent of our unit strength. It is imperative we continue to attract and retain the best traditional Airmen we can. I'm convinced the best way to do this is by making sure our DSG Airmen are relevant to our mission. This is why it is so important we maximize their mission training during drills and annual training.

What keeps many of them serving in the Kansas Air National Guard is the pride and ownership they feel for our mission. That won't happen if they are not properly trained. Our DSGs make tremendous sacrifices to serve. It is not the "fun" things we do on drill weekends that keep them here, it is serving, knowing they are making their squadrons the best in the ANG.

My first wing commander's coin was presented to Senior Master Sgt. Mark Angelini. He was an outstanding example of a full-time Airman who understood and took care of his traditional Airmen.

I expect nothing less of all our full-timers. Leaders and supervisors should encourage cross talk among our units to capture what is working and what isn't, so we can always strive to do a better job supporting the traditional Airman. The Jayhawk tradition has always been to strive for excellence in all we do. This is why we are an outstanding wing.

Expect me to continue to roam about the wing on drill weekends. DSGs, I look forward to hearing about your civilian jobs and your ideas on how we can be the best wing in the ANG for traditional Airmen.

Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do.



Col. J.J. Jordan
Wing Commander

Civil Engineers use skills to make a difference

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

A humanitarian mission in the Southwest gives the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron some very rewarding hands-on training.

The sound of hammers pounding, heavy equipment moving dirt, duct work being placed and pipe wrenches on plumbing fixtures are common noises for a construction site. For 34 Airmen of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, these sounds are music to their ears, because it means hands-on training.

“It is the only way that we learn our job,” said Staff Sgt. Brett Shouse, heavy equipment operator. “It gives us relevant experience. So much of our training is comput-



Airmen from the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron arrived at Window Rock, Ariz., for two weeks of annual training. The training was part of a humanitarian mission, which was designed to help improve the living conditions of local Native Americans. Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

er-based and the hands-on stuff is the only way to learn construction type jobs.”

On June 15-29, the 184th CES deployed to Gallup, N.M., and Window Rock, Ariz., for their two-week annual training. But this training was a little different than what the squadron is used to.

“When I first found out that it was humanitarian work,” said Senior Airman Justin Hoppe, utilities technician, “I thought that it was a great way to come here and show support and do the work that they need help with.”

The 184th CES

worked with the Southwest Indian Foundation as three separate teams, at three sites, building homes, remodeling buildings and trenching new sewer and water systems. Every project directly impacted and improved the living conditions of local Native Americans.

“We get to use our expertise and skills to improve the quality of life for these people,” said Staff Sgt. John Gee, heating and cooling systems technician.

The Southwest Indian Foundation is a small organization that has a big mission. The partnership with the military is extremely important in order to get as much accomplished as they can each year.

“We have been doing this for 15 years and we have built right around 220 homes during that time,” said Jeremy Boucher, deputy director of Southwest Indian Foundation. “When the military comes



Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Kemper, production control technician, 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, helps put a wall together at the Southwest Indian Foundation’s warehouse during his annual training. The warehouse allowed the engineers to build a house from the beginning to end.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs



Engineers from the 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, mark the locations of walls for a new home at the Southwest Indian Foundation's warehouse in Gallup, N.M. During their annual training, engineers were able to sharpen their skills by building homes, remodeling buildings and trenching for new water and sewer systems.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

during the summer, they provide crucial manpower for us.”

Building new homes at the Southwest Indian Foundation warehouse for qualified applicants was only one worksite where the team worked. Saint Michael's Association for Special Education was where Airmen spent the majority of the time remodeling and improving three existing buildings.

“We have redesigned an HVAC system for a house that didn't have a heating and cooling system,” said Gee. “They were using a potbelly stove to heat the home during the winter and they had nothing for the summer time.”

In addition to installing a new HVAC system, windows were replaced, doors relocated, complete plumbing systems removed and replaced, and new electrical wires and panels installed.

While most of the engineers worked on building or remodeling homes, a small crew of four travelled to



Airman 1st Class Travis Rogers and Senior Airman Chris Ruhlen, both electricians, 184th Civil Engineering Squadron, run new electrical cables under a remodeled home at St. Michael's Association for Special Education during annual training to Window Rock, Ariz., and Gallup, N.M., June 15-29.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

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three homes installing water and sewer lines. Some of these homes had gone years without water and sewer.

“What surprises me is this is 2013 and a lot of the people don’t even have running water,” said Shouse. “This house has been here since 2004 without running water. We are here to put in water and septic systems for the families that need it.”

The trenching crew put in three septic systems, 265 linear feet of waterlines and 315 linear feet of infiltration systems, all while getting valuable real-world training with real-world dilemmas.



Airmen from the 184th CES place a center beam on a newly-constructed house at the Southwest Indian Foundation building facility. The foundation completes approximately 20 homes a year with the help of military engineers. Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

Airman trades dollar signs for digging ditches

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Elise Terrell usually spends her annual training days processing short orders, long tours and forms. Terrell, who works in finance, had a chance to try something different this year, she was assigned to a building crew as part of the 184th Intelligence Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron. The CES deployed to Gallup, N.M., and Window Rock, Ariz., for their two-week annual training, June 15-29, and worked with the Southwest Indian Foundation building homes, remodeling buildings and trenching new sewer and water systems.

“With me being in finance, I never thought that I would come out here and build houses,” said Terrell. “It is a nice thing to do because it makes me feel more a part of the Air Force, not just in customer service, but actually getting hands-on experience.”

At the foundation’s warehouse, houses are built from ground up. Terrell helped where she was needed and gained skills that might benefit her outside of the military.

“She mastered laying floors and taught some of our



Airman 1st Class Elise Terrell, finance specialist, 184th Intelligence Wing, uses a grease gun on a piece of the heavy equipment during the 184th IW Civil Engineering Squadron’s annual training to Windowrock, Ariz. and Gallup N.M., June 15-29.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

younger Airmen, she is doing great,” said Maj. John Adam, emergency management flight officer. “For her and others out here, a lot of these projects are things

“Every situation is different you know, we hit rock on this project six inches down,” continues Shouse. “We have to do something, so you get a jackhammer or dig it out by hand. You can’t plan for that in a textbook, there is only one way and that is getting dirty out in the field.”

The annual training was a great opportunity for all career fields to get hands-on training for their specific trades. The 184th CE squadron spent approximately 3,500 hours helping a community that welcomed them with open arms.

“We are actually working in the community and they understand why we are here and that we are here to help them,” said Maj. John Adam, emergency management flight officer.

“It’s heartwarming you are actually helping someone that needs this,” said Airman 1st Class Kathryn Smith, structures technician.



Senior Master Sgt. Homer King, structures superintendent, 184th CES, cuts wood for a remodeling project at St. Michael's Association for Special Education. Engineers worked on three homes at St. Michael's Association replacing plumbing systems, HVAC systems, windows and other improvements. Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

that they can do in their homes.”

Being from a different discipline, the engineers wanted to give Terrell opportunities to operate different tools and machinery. Staff Sgt. Brett Shouse, heavy equipment operator, showed her how to work and maintain a backhoe and excavator.

“I gave her a grease gun, it is one of the dirtiest jobs that you can do, and she jumped in and tackled it,” said Shouse. “She is really eager and she wants to learn.”

Like many other squadrons, CE is made up of different trades and career fields. On annual training, Airmen might be pouring concrete, installing HVAC systems, building structures or all

the above.

“We typically bring other disciplines with us on our annual trainings,” said Adams. “They are curious about what civil engineers do and I think that it is important for others in the wing to learn about our squadron.”



Terrell gained valuable experience outside of her career field when she deployed on the humanitarian mission, building, rehabbing and digging water and sewer lines for local Native Americans. Photo by 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

The 184th CES worked with the Southwest Indian Foundation as three separate teams, at three sites, building homes, remodeling buildings and trenching new sewer and water systems. Every project directly impacted and improved the living conditions of local Na-

tive Americans. The humanitarian mission was something that Terrell really enjoyed.

“I love being a part of something that helps other people,” said Terrell. “I love that it is for the local community, so you’re actually getting to see the people that it will benefit, and that makes it a little more rewarding.”

284th ASOS jumps into Kansas Air National Guard history

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Two Airmen from the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron carry out the first airborne mission in the Kansas Air National Guard.

History was made in July when Airmen from the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron arrived at Watkins, Colo., to train with the 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, Colorado National Guard.

Tech. Sgt. Tavis Delaney, joint terminal attack control instructor, and Senior Airman Mike Kohn, radio operator maintenance and driver, left Smoky Hill Weapons Range near Salina, Kan., to parachute from a CH-47 helicopter. They are the first Airmen in Kansas Air National Guard history to participate in airborne operations.

The coordination process leading up to the mission brought the 190th Air Refueling Wing and the 184th Intelligence Wing together to work toward a successful operation.



Airmen from the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron were the first in Kansas Air National Guard history to participate in airborne operations.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

“Since we do not have a flying squadron in the 184th, we had to ask the 190th for assistance in managing our records,” said Delaney. “They were absolutely indispensable to this effort and we could not

have done it without them. I was most impressed by their willingness to take on an additional workload for a unit that’s not even in their wing.”

Kohn graduated from the Airborne Basic Parachute School earlier in July, making this the first operational jump in his career.

“There’s a huge difference between the school environment and the operational environment. During this trip, I’ve been able to see how everything comes together,” said Kohn.

Kohn recognized how important it is to get all of the training that’s available to him.

“The more experiences I’m exposed to, the more I become an asset to my squadron.”



The Airmen jumped from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flown by the Colorado National Guard. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

While making history and jumping from a helicopter are notable accomplishments, the jump was only a small piece of a much larger picture that both Delaney and Kohn see coming together. Delaney saw an opportunity for the two entities to learn from each other in order to improve their skill, making the whole team stronger in combat.

“What you do in training you will do in combat. The more opportunities we get to train ourselves with the SOF [Special Operations Force] community, the more adept and capable we’ll be as operators on the battlefield,” Delaney said.

While deployed, JTACs and ROMADs are normally embedded with an Army unit and coordinate close air support, or CAS, during combat operations. They have the ability to bring a multitude of weapons to the fight including Air Force and Navy fighters and bombers, artillery, air cavalry and heavy ground forces.



Prior to the jump, the Airmen attended the basic airborne refresher course to brush up on their skills. Tech. Sgt. Tavis Delaney practices proper techniques used once he hits the ground.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs



Tech. Sgt. Tavis Delaney and Senior Airman Mike Kohn assemble parachute equipment during a basic airborne refresher course.

Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

Delaney’s vision is to build a relationship between ASOS personnel and Special Forces, allowing the two groups to understand each other’s capabilities and how to effectively use them.

“As we continue to foster our working relationship, we hope to help our Special Forces partners hone their CAS skills with us at Smoky Hill Weapons Range while we get the added benefit of having them provide us training on small unit tactics, as well as familiarize us with the variety of small arms we encounter on the battlefield.”

Because of the unique capabilities the Airmen possess, Delaney hopes that a strong working relationship with the 19th Special Forces Group will expose them to the weapon systems, equip-

ment and methods they’re likely to see on the battlefield.

“Exposure to the myriad of different weapons systems in their inventory helps us operate more effectively on the battlefield, not only if aligned with SOF, but also conventional units,” he said.

According to Delaney, the relationship got off to a great start.

“They were extremely hospitable and excited to have the opportunity to train alongside us in CAS tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as teach us how to operate alongside them. They were very welcoming and eager to train together,” he said.

In addition to the parachute mission, the 284th ASOS also sent three Airmen to Watkins to attend Tactical Combat Casualty Care training with the 19th Special Forces Group. The training was intended to teach the Airmen to perform lifesaving skills during intense combat scenarios.

Jaydocs participate in Tropic Care 2013

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy, 184th Public Affairs

The 184th Medical Group gained valuable training and experience while helping underserved areas in Hawaii.

Free medical services were offered to residents of Hawaii in June during Operation Tropic Care 2013, a joint operation spanning six locations which combined Army, Navy and Air Force medical personnel, including state and county officials. Forty-two Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing, Medical Group participated in the operation.

“The other services were very small so we really got to talk to them and see their operation work on a small scale,” said Staff Sgt. Ben Axman, aerospace medical services technician. “We got to see the actual logistics behind every operation.”

The operation also served as a training opportunity for over 500 military doctors, nurses, dentists and other medical professionals from active-duty, guard and reserve forces. The training provided experience in a rapid deployment scenario in which military personnel respond to disasters, whether man-made or natural.

“It brought a whole new aspect of training to the medical group, not only did we get to refresh our typical skill set but we did so in a very different environment. It wasn’t a clinic or a hospital, or even a medical tent, it was great to see how flexible the medical field can be without proper facilities,” said



The 184th Medical Group worked with many other organizations to provide free medical services to residents of Hawaii during Tropic Care 2013.

Photo by Staff Sgt. N. Alicia Goldberger, 176th Public Affairs

Axman.

With so many services working together, challenges presented themselves early during the operation.

“Everybody came together really quickly under some rather adverse conditions at first,” said Lt. Col. Chris Mills, director of staff.

During the first night in Hawaii, the group had to sleep on the floor of an elementary school because of lodging complications. Logistics also played into the challenges when food shipments couldn’t be delivered due to big waves preventing ferry boats from docking.

“There was really nothing that we couldn’t overcome,” said Mills. “It was great to see the resiliency of our people tested and, time and time again, watch them come up with a way to adapt to the situation.”

The mission was conducted

under the National Guard Bureau’s Innovative Readiness Training program, which gave the Medical Group an opportunity to meet mission essential training requirements and achieve certifications necessary to perform their duties.

Communities that lack medical services, or may be underserved, are considered for the designated location when the IRT is selected.

“This IRT has been a great training platform for our medical group,” said Col. Rohn Hamilton, 184th Medical Group commander. “It has allowed us to train for rapid response and sustainment and provide free health care to the underserved people of Lanai and Molokai. This joint training has also given 184th Medical Group members the opportunity to work with the Army and Navy and to see we are all part of the same team. Overall, this was excellent training.”

Passing the guidon

By Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Public Affairs

As Col J.J. Hernandez' career progresses, the direction of the 184th Intelligence Wing is in the hands of a new commander, Col J.J. Jordan.

Col. Jeffery J. Jordan assumed command of the 184th Intelligence Wing, relieving Col. John Hernandez June 8, 2013.

Hernandez received command of the wing in 2010.

Brig. Gen. Bradley Link, assistant adjutant general Kansas Air National Guard – Air Component, praised Jordan for excelling in every position he's held, and described him as a "lead by example" kind of officer.

"And [his] example is an excellent one," said Link.

"For the three years that I have been your commander, I felt like your starting pitcher for three seasons in the big league," said Hernandez "I knew, stepping in, I owed you my best game and for those seasons I felt

like I gave you my best game ... the man taking my place is the Kansas Air Guard's ace reliever. JJ, it's time for you to take the mound."

"Integrity first, excellence in all we do, and service before self," said Jordan, expressing the high value he places in the Air Force core values. "All I ask of you is to make the 184th a better place because you are in it."

For the past six months, Jordan has been the vice wing commander and prior to that he was the commander of the 184th Regional Support Group since 2010.

Jordan said that he was looking forward to working with fellow Jayhawks as well as working for them.

"The future of the 184th is very, very bright!" said Jordan.



Col J.J. Jordan received command of the 184th Intelligence Wing on June 8 during a change of command ceremony. Picture left to right: Brig. Gen. Brad Link, Chief Master Sgt. Russ Brotsky, Col. J.J. Jordan and Col. J.J. Hernandez. Photo by Staff Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs



Col. J.J. Hernandez, right, passes the unit's guidon to Brig. Gen. Brad Link during the change of command ceremony.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th Public Affairs

Medal of Honor ceremony brings family legacy alive for Kansas Soldier and Airman

By Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office, Kansas Joint Forces Headquarters

Guardsmen hear first-hand accounts of their great uncle's heroism and sacrifice.

1st Lt. Kristina Kapaun and her brother, Spc. David Kapaun, visited the White House April 11 to witness a ceremony honoring a man they had never met, a man who died decades before either was born, but a man of whom both were immensely proud.

During the ceremony, President Barack Obama presented a posthumous Medal of Honor to their great-uncle, Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun, Catholic priest, who died in a North Korean prisoner of war camp May 23, 1951, after seven months of imprisonment. But in those months, Kapaun performed numerous acts of heroism and self-sacrifice. Stories of those acts became part of the Kapaun family history.

"What I knew about him was the stories, that he was in the Army and that he was really brave and that he did a lot of amazing things while he was captured in the Korean War," recalled Kristina, air battle manager with the 134th Air Control Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard. "It was one of those things where you grow up with it being there."

"Every year at Pilsen, Kansas, they have a dedication for him," she continued. "There, they would always talk about some stories about what he did. They called him



Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun (right) and a doctor carry an exhausted soldier off the battlefield in Korea, early in the war. The photo shows Kapaun to the GI's left, and Capt. Jerome A. Dolan, a medical officer with the 8th Cavalry regiment, to his right. Photo courtesy ACME

the 'Good Thief,' they'd call him a hero. He rescued people and he also helped steal food to help feed them (because) everyone was starving in camp."

"He would break out of his side of the camp they separated the officers from the enlisted then he would break into the enlisted side," said David, a member of the Kansas Army National Guard's 35th Military Police Company. "The whole time he's scavenging for food or materials to make pans or pots to boil the water."

"It was kind of like the Robin Hood story," said Kristina. "He was doing it to help save his fellow prisoners. He didn't take it for

himself, he took it for other people. So I always thought that was really amazing as an example of putting other people before yourself, no matter how bad the situation is."

"Growing up it was like 'Wow! Not only are you breaking out of one camp, but you're breaking into another, knowing the whole time if you get caught you're going to be punished,'" said David. "Just to serve your men like that, what drives a man to do that?"

David said his favorite story was "when he picked up Herb Miller."

"Here was a U.S. Soldier in a ditch, getting ready to be executed by the enemy because he couldn't walk," said David, "and my great-

uncle just walks over, calmly, with a mission in mind to take his Soldier back. He just pushes the enemy out of the way and picks up and carries a wounded Soldier with no reason other than ‘That’s my Soldier and you’re not taking him.’”

“We listened to Herb tell it first-hand,” said David. “It just sends chills down your spine.”

Along with Miller, Kristina and David got to meet several other men who had lived with Kapaun and were saved through his efforts.

“They actually didn’t like to talk about themselves,” Kristina said, “but about Father Kapaun, they’ll talk about him all day long, about what he did. By talking about what he did they were, in a way, talking about what they went through. Going through Father Kapaun was a safer way for them to share about that experience they went through, which was unimaginable.”

It was through the efforts of such men that Kapaun was awarded the Medal of Honor.

“From what I understood (from the ceremony) they were trying to work on it as soon as the Soldiers came back from Korea,” said Kristina. “They were wanting him to receive the Medal of Honor.”

After 60 years of writing letters, talking to members of Congress and spreading the story about Kapaun, that richly-deserved



1st Lt. Kristina Kapaun, 134th Air Control Squadron, is the great-niece of Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun, chaplain, who post-humously received the Medal of Honor on April 11.

Photo courtesy 134th Air Control Squadron

honor became a reality. Proudly wearing their Kansas National Guard uniforms, the Kapauns traveled to Washington, D.C., in April to attend the ceremony.

“The ceremony was amazing,” Kristina said. “It was a lot more emotional than I expected it to be. Meeting the prisoners of war that actually knew my great-uncle was probably one of the best parts of it. That made it real. Growing up, you heard the stories, but then we actually met the people who were there with him. It brought it home.”

David said he felt “Just immense pride, when you think of everything that my great-uncle had done and to be a part of the family, and part of the legacy. To be still serving in the Kansas Army National Guard and to be there in uniform, to be among some of the greatest men that have received the medal, it was just an amazing event.”



Father Emil Kapaun celebrating Mass during the Korean War using the hood of a Jeep as his altar, Oct. 7, 1950. Less than a month later, Kapaun would, without regard for his own life, save a fellow Soldier from certain death.

Photo courtesy Col. Raymond Skeeahan

Kristina said the stories about her great-uncle had an indirect effect on her decision to join the Guard.

“It did affect how I knew I wanted to try to aspire to be in the military,” she explained. “He was a very brave person and not only was he brave, he was a kind and gentle person to everyone he ever met. So that was something I tried to aspire to. I have a long way to go, but he’s somebody who’s amazing to look up to as an example of how to be in the military.”

David echoed her sentiment. “I’ve always had the desire to serve,” he said. “Knowing that my great-uncle had served... you just kind of hope to live up to the name. It’s more of an honor that I get to serve in the military with the same last name.”

Master Sgt. Lou Locke

Fighting Jayhawk since 1996

Organization:

184th Intelligence Support Squadron (full-time)
184th Wing Staff (part-time)

Military Job Title:

First Sergeant



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs, 184th Public Affairs

Above & Beyond:

- Bachelor of Science Organizational Management and Leadership from Friends University
- CCAF degree Aviation Maintenance Technology
- CCAF Degree Human Resource Management
- SNCOA in-residence graduate
- NCOA in-residence graduate, Commandant Award winner
- Acting President, First Sergeant Council, overseeing 12 wing first sergeants
- Historic Air Park B1-B restoration project team member
- Volunteer at State of Kansas Skills USA Interview Board for Kansas High School Interview Skills Competition
- Volunteer for various wing events, parties and preparing tasty foods
- Spearheaded First Sergeant Council to oversee the Combat Dining In silent auction
- Wing marathon team member at USAF half marathon
- Attends 22nd Air Refueling Wing first sergeant meetings promoting "Total Force" initiatives
- Mentored youth as summer baseball coach for past 12 years
- Member of 184th intramural flag football team
- Member of Enlisted Association of the Air National Guard United States

My story:

After completing seven years of active duty Air Force service at McConnell as a B-1B avionic specialist and a little over two years working in the civilian aircraft industry, I realized that I'm called to serve. The opportunities that have been available to me during my career have made me who I am in the Air National Guard. The main reason I decided to rejoin the military is the camaraderie the military provides. I am a people person; taking care of others was instilled in me at a very young age. I grew up in a small coal mining town in Pennsylvania where everybody knows your name. The 184th gives me the same sense of community. I feel that this is why I'm a perfect fit to be a first sergeant. I have experienced many changes in my career. I know that no one is more or less important than anyone else. We all have a job to do. I get so many opportunities to dedicate my time and energy to people's needs. I recently received a call from an Airman that had been unfavorably discharged from the military. They wanted to let me know they considered me a person that always cared; that my help and assistance has caused them to change and they appreciate my support. This is enough for me to know why I serve.

Airman recognized for lifesaving actions

By 2nd Lt. Matt Lucht, 184th Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Rucker was commended for helping his neighbors escape from a fire which destroyed their home in Nov. 2012.

The Wichita Fire Department recognized Tech. Sgt. Shawn A. Rucker, 161st Intelligence Squadron, for heroic steps he took to help two individuals and save another from a house fire. Rucker was honored during a ceremony Thursday, June 13, at the Regional Training Center.

Rucker was driving home after his shift at the 184th Intelligence Wing, Nov. 24, 2012, when he noticed a large plume of smoke near his home. Following the smoke, he discovered a house partially engulfed in flames. Rucker immediately called 911 and ran toward the house to help.

While on the phone with dispatch, he found the homeowners standing on the front porch. After relaying the information to the 911 operator, he realized that someone was still in the basement of the house.



Damage from the fire that destroyed a house belonging to neighbors of Tech. Sgt. Rucker.

Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker



Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker, middle, was recognized by the Wichita Fire Department during a ceremony in June. Rucker helped his neighbor escape from a burning house November, 2012.

Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Shawn Rucker

Rucker entered the house with the homeowner and found the still-sleeping resident. Together they were able to carry her to safety.

Rucker stayed with the woman until the Wichita Fire Department arrived. The house sustained significant damage.

“We’re all proud of Technical Sergeant Rucker’s heroic actions last November,” said Col. Kreg Anderson, 184th Intelligence Group commander. “We have great Airman in this unit and Shawn’s selfless act represents the Jayhawk tradition of service to the military and the community. Shawn’s been in the Guard for almost 10 years and is always willing to take on the toughest challenges. It was no surprise that he was willing to risk his life to help a neighbor.”

Medical Group Update

To comply with the new physical process, all members need to complete WebHA during the month of August. Requesting maximum attendance in October and November.

JAYHAWK FLYER

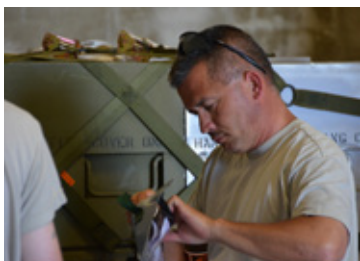
photo finish ► Fighting Jayhawks in action



The Cancer Benefit Golf Committee from left to right: Chief Master Sgt. Terry Clain, Staff Sgt. Matt Benoit, Col. J.J. Jordan, Master Sgt. Kim Evans, Staff Sgt. James Burton, James Nastors, Tech. Sgt. Melissa Gillenwater, Jamie Taulbee, Master Sgt. Basil Pepperd, Kellyn Modlin, Gram Pankratz, Tech. Sgt. Jodee Dalton, Master Sgt. Emily Albers, Tech. Sgt. Shane Clarke and Senior Master Sgt. Eli Shields. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy

Master Sgt. Jimmy Evans checks for proper documentation during a quarterly exercise conducted by the 184th Munitions Squadron.

Photo by Airman Lauren Penney



Airman 1st Class Clyde Samilton sands the outside of the B-1 in preparation for painting.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Jacobs



The Company Grade Officers' Council presented an appreciation award to AMP Crossfit for donating to the silent auction which helped raise money for the combat dining in. Pictured from left to right: Capt. Megan Enns, Ivan Talavera, 1st Lt. Naomi Hume and Noah Morford. Photo by Airman Lauren Penney



On May 6, the 184th Regional Support Group and 184th Mission Support Group commanders swapped positions during a change of command ceremony. Col. Mike Tokarz received command of the 184th RSG, and Lt. Col. Dave Weishaar took command of the 184th MSG. Pictured from left to right: Col. J.J. Hernandez, Lt. Col. Dave Weishaar, Chief Master Sgt. Russ Brotsky, Col. Mike Tokarz and Master Sgt. John Ives. Photo by Master Sgt. Matt McCoy